the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full participation) Act, 1995. Instructions have been issued on 13.1.2000 and 27.3.2000 by the Department of Public Enterprises to all the CPSUs to launch a vigorous drive so that the minimum reservation of 3% vacancies as envisaged in the Act, is achieved. However, a large number of CPSUs are loss making, having surplus manpower and have introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). As per information available from 191 CPSUs, 8,840 employees are with disabilities (1120: visually impaired, 1844: hearing impaired, and 5876: loco motor disabilities).

**Inter Cast/Inter Religion Marriages**

†1530. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian society has become very cruel against the youth, who are opting inter-caste and inter-religion marriages these days;

(b) if so, the number of murders of young couples who had inter-caste/ inter-religion marriages during the last five years;

(c) the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) what action Government are taking for providing security to those innocent people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Some isolated incidents have been reported.

(b) to (d) Public Order and Police are State Subjects as per the Constitution of India. State Governments are primarily concerned with the maintenance of law and order. The Union Government, inter-alia, shares such information which have a bearing on Communal Harmony, with the concerned State Governments to enable them to take appropriate action. Information on this are maintained by the State Government.

**Crimes against SCs and STs**

1531. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.